



**RESOLUTION BY THE BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO
CENSURE MAYOR JACK BATSON**

WHEREAS, a personnel matter was commenced, on or about February 11, 2011, under the Town of Belville's ("Town") Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual ("Personnel Policy");

WHEREAS, the Belville Board of Commissioners ("Board"), on February 17, 2011 and as required under the Personnel Policy, directed the Town Attorney to conduct a comprehensive investigation of said personnel matter;

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney investigated the matter and obtained, during the course of that investigation, sworn statements from each of the Town's officials, employees and independent contractors;

WHEREAS, the evidence compiled by the Town Attorney in the course of the investigation showed that during 2010, a consensual and personal relationship developed between the Mayor and an employee of the Town's staff ("Employee") which included:

1. A significantly unusual degree of personal interaction, over and beyond what would be considered reasonable given the scope of the Employee's subordinate position on the Staff, between the Mayor and the Employee when both parties were present at Town Hall;
2. In-person communications between the Mayor and the Employee of a personal and subjective nature including the issues each party was experiencing, at the time, in their respective relationships with others;
3. Email communications between the Mayor and the Employee of a personal nature;
4. Conversations by telephone between the Mayor and the Employee of a personal nature;
5. Meetings between the Mayor and the Employee at Town Hall behind closed doors where matters of a personal nature were discussed;
6. Consensual touching, of a supportive and non-sexual nature, by the Mayor and the Employee;

7. The Mayor and the Employee taking at least one meal alone together in the public;
8. The Mayor asking the Employee to attend various Town-related events with him;
9. The Mayor asking the Employee to have dinner with him; and
10. That the Mayor was previously counseled not to be out alone together with the Employee.

WHEREAS, there is no evidence that the Mayor and the Employee ever dated, travelled alone together on non-Town related trips, visited each other's residence, engaged in any sexual activity, or engaged in any illegal discriminatory conduct;

WHEREAS, based upon the investigation, the Board finds that the Mayor, as the Town's highest elected official, engaged in a consensual, personal relationship with the Employee who was a subordinate member of the Town's staff; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that the Mayor's consensual, personal relationship with a subordinate employee was inappropriate and unacceptable because of how such a relationship would be misperceived by the public and adversely impact upon the Town and its public bodies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in a meeting duly assembled and during open session, that the Board hereby censures and repudiates the actions of Mayor Jack Batson for engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate member of the Town's staff.

Adopted this the ____ day of September, 2011.

SIGNED:

Mike Allen, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Athina D. Williams, Town Clerk